

Applicants respectfully assert that all amendments are fairly based on the specification, and respectfully request their entry.

Applicants believe that the claims, as amended, are in allowable form, and earnestly solicit the allowance of claims 1-10.

Respectfully submitted,



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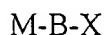
Claims (marked-up version showing amendment(s))

[C L A I M S]

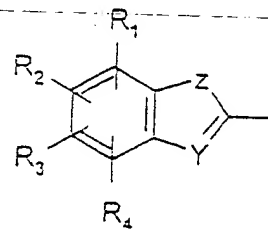
What is claimed is:

1. (once amended) [A] In a method for selectively enriching/removing a serum albumin from a mixture of other compounds by contacting said mixture with a ligand (= X), the improvement comprising said ligand

- a) having affinity for and enabling binding of the serum albumin and
- b) being attached via a spacer (= B) to a base matrix (= M') insoluble in the aqueous media used, the matrix with the attached ligand being represented by



where M is the matrix, B is the spacer and X the affinity ligand, with the provision that M may contain further groups X linked via a spacer,
characterized in that said ligand X has been selected among serum albumin-binding structures complying with the formulae



in which

- a) the free valence bind to the spacer B;
 - b) R_{1-4} are selected from hydrogen, electron-withdrawing groups, such as halogens and lower alkyl groups (C_{1-10}) that possibly are substituted with electron withdrawing groups, such as halogens;
 - c) Z and Y are selected among oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen, with the provision that the nitrogen may carry a positive charge.
3. (once amended) The method according to [anyone of claims 1-2] claim 1, **characterized** in that at least one of R_{1-4} exhibit an electron withdrawing group, preferably selected among halogens such as fluorine.

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4. (once amended) The method according to [anyone of claims 1-3]claim 1, **characterized** in that the spacer [have]has a sulphur atom next to X.
5. (once amended) The method according to [any one of claims 1-4]claim 1, **characterized** in that Z and Y are nitrogens, one of which binding to a hydrogen and the ligand structure being charged depending of pH.
6. (once amended) The method of [anyone of claims 1-5]claim 1, **characterized** in that said mixture derives from a host in which said serum albumin is human serum albumin.
7. (once amended) The method of [anyone of claims 1-6]claim 1, **characterized** in that said ligand is attached covalently to said matrix.
8. ~~(once amended) The method of [anyone of claims 1-7]claim 1, **characterized** in that after the adsorption step said serum albumin is eluted from said affinity adsorbent and if necessary further processed.~~